

Hartlepool Port Health Authority

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

*For the Year ended 31st December,
1941*

By ARNOLD S. L. BIGGART,
M.B., Ch.B.

Hartlepool Port Health Authority

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Hartlepool Port Health Authority,

1942

CHAIRMAN - J. METCALF.

Elected by West Hartlepool Corporation :

- A. HYDE, J.P., Kenmara, Park Road, West Hartlepool.
E. BLOOM, Castlewood, Elm Grove, West Hartlepool.
J. FENWICK, Holly Mount, Wooler Rd., West Hartlepool.
T. GREEN, 27 Park Road, West Hartlepool.
W. CHARLTON, Bank House, Victoria Road, West Hartlepool.
J. MIDDLETON, J.P., 22 Tennyson Avenue, West Hartlepool.
J. W. MILLER, 46 Raby Road, West Hartlepool.
T. W. PINKNEY, 78 Church Street, West Hartlepool.
O. LUPTON, J.P. (Mayor), Exchange Vaults, George Street, West Hartlepool.
E. HARBRON, J.P., 17 Alverstone Avenue, West Hartlepool.

Elected by Hartlepool Corporation :

- F. J. CARR, J.P., Piercliffe, St. Hilda Street, Hartlepool.
R. H. DAVISON, J.P., Shincliffe, Albion Terrace, Hartlepool.
R. W. RICHARDSON, 9 Gray Square, Hartlepool.
J. STEVENSON, 8 Gibb Square, Hartlepool.
J. METCALF, 55 Arch Street, Hartlepool.

Fixed Days of Meeting :

At the Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.

Feb. 19th, 1942	June 18th, 1942	Nov. 19th, 1942
Apr. 16th, 1942	Sept. 17th, 1942	Dec. 10th, 1942

Each day at 3-0 p.m.

Finance and Port Committees :

All the Members of the Authority are Members of these Committees. The Committees meet at 2-45 p.m. on the same day as the bi-monthly meeting is held.

Officers :

Clerk : C. GILBERT BUNTING, Solicitor, Exchange Building, 66 Church Street, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 2850
Medical Officer : A. S. L. BIGGART, M.B., Ch.B., 221 Stockton Road, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 3044
Deputy Medical Officer : L. J. STONE, M.B., Ch.B., 221 Stockton Road, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 3044
Surveyor : F. DURKIN, A.M.I.C.E., Municipal Buildings, West Hartlepool.
Inspector : E. V. ABBEY, Master Mariner, M.S.I.A., 16 Granville Avenue, West Hartlepool. Telephone No. 2015
Deputy Inspector : G. A. WARD, M.S.I.A., 16 Frances Street, Hartlepool.
Rat Catcher : G. MENHENNET, 62 Howard Street, Hartlepool.

ANNUAL REPORT.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.

FEBRUARY, 1942,

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Hartlepool Port Health Authority.**

Gentlemen,

In compliance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

Owing to the war the report is considerably curtailed.

There has only been one case of Infectious Disease occurring on vessels arriving in the Port. A case of Diphtheria which was removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The necessary precautions were taken and as far as I am aware no other case occurred on board.

Under the International Sanitary Convention of Paris and the Deratisation of Ships Regulations 26 Deratisation Exemption Certificates and 4 Deratisation Certificates have been issued, being 4 less than in the previous year. During the year 141 rats were destroyed. There has been no evidence of rat mortality when vessels have been searched.

The number of vessels arriving in the Port have been less than in 1940, 701 as against 772.

The work carried out by your Inspector, his Deputy and the Rat Catcher has been to my entire satisfaction and the Inspector's work is given in more detail in the Report.

In conclusion I desire to express my thanks for the valuable assistance given to me by the Chief Preventive Officer of H.M. Customs and his Staff, to Captain Chapman and his Assistant Dock Masters, to the Board of Trade Surveyor, the L.N.E.R.'s Dock Manager and also to the Pilot Master and Pilots for their hearty co-operation with the Officials of this Authority.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARNOLD S. L. BIGGART,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

1 NUMBER OF VESSELS INSPECTED IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1941.

Table A. (*Ministry of Health.*)

1941	Number inspected		Number reported to be Defective	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels reported as having or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
	By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Health Inspector			
From Foreign	10	21	9	7	—
From Coastwise...	31	680	14	13	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise	41	701	23	20	—

II. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

(a) **For the Port.** The port is supplied by the Hartlepool Gas and Water Company.

(b) **For Shipping.** Ships are supplied from the mains through hydrants from the several quays or wharves where the service is laid on.

(c) **Number of Water Boats and their Sanitary Conditions.** There are no water boats in use for shipping in the Hartlepool.

The water is very hard but of excellent quality. It is obtained from springs and catchment basins.

III. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

Paragraphs 1 to 11 as printed in previous Reports.

TABLE C. (*Ministry of Health.*)

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	No. of Cases during 1941		No. of Vessels Concerned
	Passengers	Crew	
Chicken Pox	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Dysentery	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever... ..	—	—	—
Typhus Fever... ..	—	—	—
Total	—	1	1

Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, or Typhus Fever has occurred on any vessel arriving in the port during the year. Rats sent for Bacteriological examination were found to be free from Plague infection.

TABLE D. (*Ministry of Health.*)

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

No cases, to be included in Table D., occurred.

38 Cases of sickness occurred on vessels in the port during the year. 29 were treated on board, 4 sent to Hospital and 5 sent home.

IV. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Paragraphs 1 to 5 as printed in previous Reports.

DERATISATION OF SHIPS.

Information for Ship Owners and Agents.

Paragraphs 1 to 8 as printed in previous Reports.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1941.

TABLE E. (*Ministry of Health.*)

(1) On Vessels.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total in Year
Number of Rats	—	21	2	30	17	—	5	—	32	29	—	5	141

29 Mice were also caught and destroyed.

TABLE F. (*Ministry of Health.*)

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total in Year
Number of Rats	12	8	16	7	—	8	18	5	3	45	59	31	212

61 Mice were also caught and destroyed.

TABLE H.† (*Ministry of Health.*)

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates
issued during the year.

No. of Ships	No. OF DERATISATION CERTIFICATES ISSUED					No. of Deratisa- tion Exemption Certificates Issued.	Total Certificates Issued
	After Fumigation with			After Trapping Poison- ing, etc.	Total		
	H.C.N.	Sulphur	H.C.N. and Sulphur				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
30	3	1	Nil	Nil	4	26	30

† Applicable only to those ports approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port 11.)

V. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J. (*Ministry of Health.*)

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number Inspected during the year	Defects of Original Construction	Structural Defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to Health
British ..	636	1	7	6
Other Nations	65	Nil	2	7

The above table is a classification of Nuisances and defects found to exist on 701 vessels inspected during the year. The nuisances or sanitary defects were mainly composed of dirty and verminous crews' quarters and bedding, defective W.C.s and flush pipes, defective drainage and soil pipes, leaky decks and hawse pipes, defective stoves and funnels, defective port lights, etc. All these nuisances have been abated or are in the process of being abated.

VI. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1925, Public Health (Imported Food) Amendment Regulations, 1933, The Imported Milk Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1927.

There has been very little importation of food and no necessity to take action under the above regulations.

2. Shell Fish. Information respecting any shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority, stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. Report of any action under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1915, or the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934.

There are no Shell-Fish beds or layings under the jurisdiction of this Authority. There are, however, Mussels, Winkles and Cockles, which can be picked from dock gates, walls and rocks, and which are liable to pollution from sewage. For this reason warning notices are posted from time to time drawing the attention of the public to the dangerous consequences arising from the consumption of such shell-fish.

Fresh fish is landed at the Fish Quay, Hartlepool, where it is inspected by the Hartlepool Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector. Unsold fish and fish offal are removed to a factory within the Borough of Hartlepool for conversion to fish meal, etc.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :

(a) **Bacteriologist.**—Nature of sample. Result of examination.

(b) **Analyst.**—Nature of sample. Result of examination.

There has not been any necessity to submit any samples of food for examination during 1940.

